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STATE FOR G, JOAQUIN FERRAO, DRL/MLGA LAURA JORDAN, IO/RHS AMY OSTERMEIER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KDEM PHUM PREL UNGA BF

SUBJECT: BAHAMAS WILL NOT ATTEND COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES

MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: A. STATE 151024 <u>¶</u>B. STATE 129764

11. (U) PolChief delivered reftel demarche points October 26 in a conversation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Sheila Carey. She gave no specific indications of

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the government's position with regard to attendance at the Ministerial meeting in Bamako, Mali. In a follow-up conversation with PolChief November 8, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Marilyn Zonicle expressed some skepticism about the utility of the meeting. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs finally conveyed to Post November 13 that The Bahamas will not attend.

12. (U) COMMENT: Despite the laudable goals of the initiative, a small, developing country like the Bahamas finds it difficult to justify expending the limited resources and ministerial capacity to actively participate in this process. END COMMENT.
SIEGEL